

FACTS OF INTEREST ABOUT WASATCH COUNTY  
AND A HISTORY OF HEBER CITY

*author not known*

Brigham Young told the people to branch out from Salt Lake City so in 1859, a small group of men came by wagons, drawn by oxen, to North Heber and called it London because they were mostly English people.

After the crops were put in, a town site was surveyed two miles south of London - approximately the center of the valley. The log cabins were built in the shape of a fort for protection from Indians. The first wheat was frosted, but could be used. They decided to call this valley Heber in honor of Heber C. Kimball.

The first bridge was built over Provo River in 1861, six miles north of Heber and a road was built to Salt Lake and to Provo. They raised hay for the animals; wool to spin and weave; made dye of tag alder wood, rabbit bush and indigo; shoes made of buckskin and the early houses had dirt roofs and floors. Their furniture was made by hand.

Wasatch was made a county in 1863. They had theaters, dances, rag rug bees and corn husking parties. Men helped in Indian uprisings and when Johnson's army came to Utah, and some went back to help the immigrants. While the women kept busy making soap and candles, the men started building sandstone homes and school houses. A grist mill came in 1865.

The first bishop was Joseph S. Murdock in 1861. In 1867, Brigham Young sustained Abraham Hatch as Bishop. Wasatch Stake was organized July 15, 1877, by John Taylor. Abram Hatch was the first Stake President. The bishop east of Main Street was Thomas Rasband and William Forman was bishop of the West Ward.

In 1864, mowing and reaping machines were brought into the valley and six years later in 1870, thrashing machines arrived. Lamps, stoves, sewing machines and washers helped out and the mail came twice a week. The Denver and Rio Grande railroad came in September 29, 1899.

When Heber was organized in 1889, Henry Aird became its first President. He served for five years and then Thomas Giles was elected in 1894 and was there for two years. Following these two men were J. W. Clyde, 1896 - 1898; E. D. Clyde, 1898 - 1900; Robert Duke, 1900 - 1902. Then Heber was organized into a city and J. W. Clyde became its first Mayor from 1902 - 1904; Joseph A. Rasband, 1904 - 1906. During this time, water works was put in. Then in 1906 to 1908, J. R. Clyde was Mayor and electric lights were put in. J. E. Clyde was elected and served from 1908 to 1914. John Ephraim Moulton followed him in 1914 and because of his death, E. D. Clyde was chosen to finish his term. Then came H. R. Hatch, 1916-18; John A. Fortie, 1918-20; E. D. Duke, 1920-24; J. Ed McMullin, 1924-28; and H. Clay Cummings, 1928-32-36. A 20 ft. wide strip of cement was put down Main Street, the water system remodeled, and they made a storage reservoir, Springhead house built and the Heber Power Plant was started. After Mr. Cummings came L. C. Montgomery who was Mayor from 1934 to 1938. During these depression days, government work programs helped out. Harold Stevens was Mayor from 1938 to 1942, and during his time the sewer system was extended, hard surface roads were made, and a library built along with other projects like the tennis court, Park and Power Plant, and lights installed at the ball park. Ralph Giles was the Mayor during the World War II days. He served from 1942 to 1946, and during his time the water spring was paid off, improvements made to the roads, zoning and sewers and a water system was put in. Then came Joseph Hylton in 1946 to 1948 and during his time in office, five miles of the city streets were hard surfaced. The Snake Creek Power Plant was started, city zoning went into affect, the airport was built and work started on the Memorial building. Following him was Maron Hiatt who served from 1947 to 1949. The Power Plant and Memorial building was finished and in 1947 to 1967, Raymond Jiacoletti was the Mayor. Then the sewer plant was installed, they enlarged the police department, started the garbage system, and got insurance for the city workers and firemen. Albert Winterrose served from 1967 to 1969, and the Tabernacle, Amusement Hall and grounds were bought for a park. The next Mayor was Harry McMillan who served from 1969 to 1974, followed by Kent Hiatt who is the

History of Heber City cont.-

Mayor at the time of this writing.

Wasatch County is located in the north central part of Utah and has a land area of 1194 square miles, and lies largely in a mountainous area of the State. The elevation varies from 5400 ft. above sea level in Heber Valley to over 10,000 ft. in the Uintah and Wasatch Mountains lying within the county. The mountainous area provides exceptionally fine summer grazing and thousands of sheep and beef cattle are pastured here. The finest grass fat lambs and beef in the state are shipped from this area.

In addition to the above, the farms in the Heber valley area are well watered and fertile and produce hay, grain, and pasture to support many fine herds of dairy cattle as well as the winter feed for the range cattle spoken of. Shipment of dairy products, principally grade A milk for the Salt Lake area is one of the major sources of income.

The Uintah, Wasatch, and Ashley National Forests lying within Wasatch County are an important source of timber and the lumber industry is bringing in considerable revenue.

The Northwestern part of the county is and has been for a long time noted for its minerals, principally silver, lead, and zinc and millions of dollars worth of ore have been shipped from the area.

Wasatch County is rapidly developing fame as a recreational and playground area. Deer Creek Reservoir, Strawberry Reservoir, the Provo River and many smaller streams and mountain lakes draw fishermen from far and near. Some of the finest deer hunting in the west is to be found here. The forests offer beautiful and inviting playgrounds for the camper. Winter sports area unsurpassed anywhere in the country is within our borders.

Natural hot springs supply our resorts with abundant warm water for swimming. Tourist accommodations are adequate with fine motels hotels and eating places where one can spend a few hours or days or weeks of relaxation and pleasure. All these fine recreational facilities are within a short distance of the great population centers of the state and are easily reached on fine modern roads.

Wasatch County's population has remained almost static for many years, ranging around 5500, made up principally of farmers and stockmen, miners, workers at Geneva Steel and other industries who commute to work, and various business people. Our schools consisting of a four year high school, a junior high and four elementary schools employ 58 teachers and instructors.

Heber City, population of over 3000, is the county seat. Other towns are Midway, Charleston, Wallburg and Soldier Summit. The predominant religion is the L.D.S. Church, approximately 95% of the population in 1945, belonging to that denomination.

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